

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Withdrawn) A method for tooth rejuvenation comprising:

applying to a tooth a layer of a composition comprising an aqueous solution of one or more edible acids, wherein one or more edible acids is selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, lactic acid, fumaric acid, malic acid, maleic acid, ascorbic acid, adipic acid, and sorbic acid and combinations thereof, and wherein the composition has a pH selected from the range of about 0.5 to 5 and wherein the composition does not contain peroxide; and

removing the composition from the tooth.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 5, wherein applying the layer of the composition lasts between 1 second and 60 minutes at a body temperature at the tooth surface.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 5, wherein applying the layer of the composition occurs at temperatures between 40°C and 60°C.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 5, wherein the composition further comprises a light absorbing material.

Claims 9-11. (Canceled)

12. (Withdrawn) A method for tooth rejuvenation comprising:

applying to a tooth surface a layer of composition comprising an aqueous solution of one or more edible acids and ions comprising the elements selected from the group consisting of Ca, Cr, Ba, Cd, Mg, P, As, Si, F and combinations thereof, wherein one or more edible acids is selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, lactic acid, fumaric acid, malic acid, maleic acid, ascorbic acid, adipic acid, sorbic acid and combinations thereof, and wherein the composition has a pH selected from the range of about 0.5 to 5; and

removing the composition from the tooth surface.

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13. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 12, wherein applying the layer of the composition lasts between 1 second and 60 minutes at a body temperature at the tooth surface.
14. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 12, wherein applying the layer of the composition occurs at temperatures between 40°C and 60°C.
15. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 12, wherein the composition further comprises a light absorbing material.
16. (Canceled)
17. (Withdrawn) A method for tooth rejuvenation comprising:
- applying to a tooth surface a layer of composition comprising an aqueous solution of one or more edible acids, wherein the composition has a pH selected from the range of about 0.5 to 5;
- heating the composition to a temperature no higher than 60°C; and
- removing the composition from the tooth surface.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein heating the composition comprises acting on a composition with a pulsed heating source.
19. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein a pulse of the heating source has a width shorter than 1 second and a duty cycle lower than 0.4.
20. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, further comprising applying a remineralization compound to the tooth surface.
21. (Canceled)
22. (Canceled)
23. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein one or more edible acids comprises one or more carboxylic acids.
24. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 17, wherein one or more edible acids is selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, lactic acid, fumaric acid, malic acid, maleic acid, ascorbic acid, adipic acid, sorbic acid and combinations thereof.
25. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the step of applying the composition and the step of applying the remineralization compound alternate.

Claims 26-28. (Canceled)

29. (Withdrawn) A tooth rejuvenating composition comprising an aqueous solution of one or more edible acids having a pH within the range from about 0.5 to about 5, which composition does not contain peroxide; and

elements selected from the group consisting of Ca, Cr, Ba, Cd, Mg, P, As, Si, F and combinations thereof in a chelating agent, wherein the Ca chelating agent is

selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid and its salts.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Withdrawn) The tooth rejuvenating composition of Claim 29, further comprising at least one light absorbing ingredient having a coefficient of absorption higher than that of a tissue surrounding the tooth in a range of wavelengths.

Claims 32-34. (Canceled)

35. (Withdrawn) A tooth rejuvenating article of manufacture comprising a porous material and an aqueous solution of one or more edible acids having a pH within the range from about 0.5 to about 5, and wherein the composition does not contain peroxide, wherein one or more edible acids is selected from the groups consisting of acetic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, lactic acid, fumaric acid, malic acid, maleic acid, ascorbic acid, adipic acid, sorbic acid and combinations thereof.

36. (Withdrawn) The tooth rejuvenating article of manufacture of Claim 35, wherein the composition further comprises a light absorbing material having a coefficient of absorption higher than that of a tissue surrounding the tooth in a range of wavelengths.

37. (Withdrawn) The tooth rejuvenating article of manufacture of Claim 35, further comprising a comprising Ca, Cr, Ba, Cd, Mg, P, As, Si, and F in a chelating agent.

Claims 38-43. (Canceled)

44. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for rejuvenating hard tissue, comprising:
- a housing with a capsule comprising an aqueous edible acid composition,
 - a heating element for heating the acid composition;
 - a temperature sensor for monitoring the temperature of the acid composition;
 - a control system connected to the heating element and the temperature sensor to maintain the temperature of the acid rejuvenation composition at a desired temperature, the control system also serving to activate an indicator when the desired temperature is achieved;
 - a power supply for providing power to the heating element upon activating a switch;
 - an applicator for applying the acid composition onto external surface of hard tissue; and
 - a light source for illuminating hard tissue, and a switch to activate the light source.
45. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for rejuvenating teeth, comprising:
- a light source for illuminating and heating teeth, the light source being connected to a control power block and serving to generate light in a range of wavelengths in which a coefficient of absorption of a composition comprising an aqueous solution of one or more edible acids and having a pH from within a range from about 0.5 to about 5 is higher than that of a tissue surrounding teeth; and
 - a detachable mouthpiece coupled to the light source.

- 46. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 45, further comprising a temperature sensor for detecting the temperature of teeth, the temperature sensor being coupled to the control power block.
- 47. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 45, wherein the range of wavelengths is in the range from 600 nm to 1350 nm.
- 48. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 45, further comprising an optical system optically coupled to the light sources and guiding the light from the light source to the teeth.

Claims 49-61. (Canceled)

- 62. (Currently Amended) A method of dental hard tissue modification comprising forming a superficial porous layer of the dental hard tissue and then selectively heating ~~the a~~ superficial porous layer of the dental hard tissue to cause the superficial porous layer to fuse.
- 63. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 62, wherein selectively heating comprises acting on the superficial porous layer with a pulsed laser.
- 64. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 62, wherein a thickness of the superficial porous layer is between 0.5 μm and 100 μm .
- 65. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 62, wherein selectively heating comprises heating the superficial porous layer to a temperature higher than a melting temperature of the dental hard tissue but less than 2000°C.

66. (Currently Amended). The method of Claim 62, further comprising forming the superficial porous layer of the dental hard tissue by using an acid before selectively heating the superficial porous layer.
67. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 62, further comprising cooling the superficial porous layer with a cooling fluid.

Claims 68-74. (Canceled)

75. (Currently Amended) A method of dental hard tissue modification comprising:

impregnating a superficial porous layer of the dental hard tissue with particles having a fluidity temperature about the same as a melting temperature of the dental hard tissue of the superficial porous layer; and

selectively heating the superficial porous layer to a temperature higher than the melting temperature of the dental hard tissue, causing the dental hard tissue and the particles to fuse.
76. (Original) The method of Claim 75, wherein the particles are inorganic particles.
77. (Original) The method of Claim 76, wherein the inorganic particles are crystal , ceramic, glass or their mixture.
78. (Original) The method of Claim 76, wherein the inorganic particles are name of $\text{Na}_2\text{O-Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-SiO}_2$, $\text{Ca}(\text{PO}_3)$, CaF_2 , $\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6(\text{OH})_2$, and $\text{Ca}_{10}(\text{PO}_4)_6\text{F}_2$.
79. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 75, wherein selectively heating the superficial porous layer comprises heating by acoustic energy, electromagnetic energy, comprising light, microwave, radio frequency, and electric current, and combinations thereof.

80. (Currently Amended) A method of dental hard tissue modification comprising:

impregnating a superficial porous layer of the dental hard tissue with particles having a fluidity temperature higher than a melting temperature of a hard tissue of the superficial porous layer; and

selectively heating the superficial porous layer to a temperature higher than the melting temperature of the dental hard tissues, but lower than the fluidity temperature of the particles.
81. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 80, wherein selectively heating the superficial porous layer comprises heating by acoustic energy, electromagnetic energy, comprising light, microwave, radio frequency, and electric current, and combinations thereof.
82. (Original) The method of Claim 80, wherein the particles are inorganic particles.
83. (Original) The method of Claim 82, wherein the inorganic particles are made of crystal, ceramic, glass or their mixture.
84. (Original) The method of Claim 83, wherein the particles are made of quartz glass or sital glass.
85. (Original) The method of Claim 83, wherein the particles are crystals selected from the group consisting of crystals of quartz, diamond, sapphire, topaz, amethyst, zircon, agate, granite, spinel, fianite, tanzanite, tourmaline and combinations thereof.
86. (Canceled)

87. (Currently Amended) A method of dental hard tissue modification comprising:

filling ~~the~~ a superficial porous layer of the dental hard tissue with a fluidified material preheated above at least its fluidity temperature, wherein the fluidified material is glass, crystal or ceramic and mixture thereof; and

letting the fluidified material cool and solidify in the superficial porous layer.

88. (Canceled)

89. (Currently Amended) A method of dental hard tissue modification comprising:

impregnating a porous surface of the dental hard tissue with particles having a fluidity temperature higher than a melting temperature of ~~a~~ the dental hard tissue of the porous surface; and

filling the porous surface with a material preheated above its fluidity temperature, wherein the material is glass, crystal or ceramic or mixture thereof, and wherein the fluidity temperature of the material is lower than a melting temperature of the particles and that of the dental hard tissue.

90. (Currently Amended) The method as in Claims 62, 75 or 80, wherein the superficial porous layer is a carious lesion, open dentine, cementum, bone, or cartilage.

91. (Currently Amended) The method as in Claims 62, 75 or 80, wherein the superficial porous layer is formed by applying the compound comprised of an acid.

92. (Currently Amended) The method as in Claims 62, 75 or 80, wherein selectively heating the superficial porous layer is followed by active control cooling.

93. (Original) The method according to Claim 92, wherein active control cooling is provided by water.
94. (Currently Amended) A method of dental hard tissue modification comprising forming a post-treatment layer having a composition differing from that of the dental hard tissue by selectively heating a superficial porous layer on the dental hard tissue.
95. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 94, comprising a step of forming the porous layer by applying to the dental hard tissue a composition having an acid before selectively heating the superficial porous layer.
96. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 94, comprising a step of impregnating the superficial porous layer with particles before selectively heating the superficial porous layer.
97. (Withdrawn)
98. (Canceled)
99. (Withdrawn) An apparatus comprising:
- a first portion spaced apart from a second portion, the first and the second portions disposed in the hand-held apparatus, the first portion serving to contain an acid-based tooth rejuvenation composition and the second portion serving to contain a second composition when the apparatus is in operation;
- a valve coupling the first portion and the second portion to the chamber.
- a chamber connected to the first and the second portions; and
- a mechanism for propelling the acid-based tooth rejuvenation composition and the second composition into the chamber.

100. (Canceled)

101. (Withdrawn) A method comprising:

applying to a tooth a layer of a first composition comprising an aqueous solution of one or more edible acids, wherein the first composition has a pH selected from the range of about 0.5 to 5;

selectively heating the layer to a temperature selected from the range from about 37°C to 60°C for a time period from about 1 second to about 60 minutes;

applying to the tooth a second composition comprising bleaching compound; and
removing the second and the first compositions from the tooth.

102. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 101 where bleaching compound comprises peroxide with concentration of up to 35%.

103. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 101, further comprising applying to the tooth a remineralization compound.

Claims 104-107. (Canceled)

108. (Withdrawn) An apparatus comprising:

a hand piece having a distal end and a proximal end and a channel extending between the distal and proximal ends;

a heater coupled to the hand piece or detached from the hand piece, wherein the heater is so located that it generates enough heat to fluidify a material passing

through the channel when the apparatus is in operation, wherein the material is glass, crystal or ceramic and mixture thereof; and

a mechanism for transporting the material through the channel from the distal end to the proximal end.

109. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 108, wherein the material is selected from the group of inorganic glass or organic glass.

110. (Canceled)

111. (Withdrawn) An apparatus comprising:

a probe having a distal end, a tip and a reservoir for containing a mixture, the mixture comprising a water-based acid solution and solid-state particles;

a first heater coupled to the probe and serving to heat the mixture when the apparatus is in operation; and

a device associated the tip and serving to generate enough heat to melt a hard tissue disposed in proximity to the tip when the apparatus is in operation, wherein the device associated with the tip is a second heater.

112. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of Claim 111, wherein the device associated with the tip is a scanner connected to laser source via an optical pathway.

Claims 113-115. (Canceled)

116. (Withdrawn) A tooth rejuvenating composition comprising an aqueous solution of one or more edible acids having a pH within the range from about 0.5 to about 5, wherein one or more edible acids is selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid, lactic acid, fumaric acid, malic acid, maleic

acid, ascorbic acid, adipic acid, sorbic acid and combinations thereof, and which composition does not contain peroxide.

117. (Canceled)

118. (Canceled)